



Sabara. You're beautiful.



You're always beautiful.



Katsuna, you're
so innocent.



We're both
innocent,
aren't we.



Tsukumo Kitsune

*A girl in a deep slumber.
A boy watching over her.
An unusual fantasy spun from
their innocent dreaming.
This is their story...*

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*Ah, you're more beautiful than
blood-red bayberries! ...*

Subaru. Your white flesh.



* Bayberry is *Elaeagnus argentea*,
a red, waxberry-like fruit of
Chinese/Japanese origin





Beautiful..









What are they looking at?





Katsura
You've got beautiful eyes





This crow's obsessed with collecting pretty pieces of glass. She built up a big stash of pretty things in her nest. Bits of mirrors, broken spectacle lenses, all sorts of things.

Do you remember the fire in the greenhouse last month? One of them is being blamed for it by the rest of her flock.



I told you to check out things, because one of them looks like it's dying.



Right. More importantly, what's happening with the dead?

In spite of all that, not that she was seen back at handling little glass "treasures" again. One of the other crows flared out and that's how the feeding started.

All that glass was what set her nest on fire. She's, and all her babies, her treasure, it's all just rot and ash now. The nests of the other crows in the grove went up in flames too.



You're the one... who jumped from the cliff.



Yeah!





How wonderful...



Seems like you got it

So you're smart now!

Blackie!



Tell me about human girls. What are they like?



Hey, hey, so tell me more.



Oh, OK.

Play all you want, just don't break it. I'm going to check out the den.







They love meat.



You try to scream out.



...but to who?



Ah, I wonder if it'll be OK to ask you.

That's so wonderful. Yes, I definitely like you.



My heart's pounding with excitement.



A dream.





A dream with you.



Beautiful...



...

...once held hands...

Innocent?

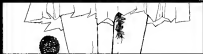


You didn't fly.









Handwritten signature and scribbles at the bottom left of the page.



Up a bit more!



What is that?
Something funny
came out!



The snakes
are the same!
Don't think
so hard like
that, you
might
damage the
forest!

It's kinda
different
from a
pig



Oh!



What?

that the
lonely
Thomas
Kitten,
the one
with 99
hearts.

One...
of the
hearts
stopped.

In the beginning, it
was just one kid. A
daughter, that kid
was called by its
ordinary name, the
number of their
other hearts was two,
then three, and
when the total
eventually hit
ninety-nine...

Death usually
comes next. The
three yourself
off a cliff. So
we're just going
to keep your
heart.

Your heart
will last a
century.





I'm looking at him as
these memories
come back, nothing is
impossible now, you
can't tell a ghost

you don't know me
but the memories
are still there
and they're up to
you

you don't know the
way with you, though
the future will
not pass



to you, I will give a gift
to tell the future



Raspberries...

unbloated.

It would be nice if blood red raspberries could run over Salmons.



I don't want it.

And... this is only getting in the way.



*That day, bayber-
ries rained like
blood over the city.*



*The bayberries piled up
like snow, and rotted
in the summer heat,
leaving an unbearable
smell and a dirty, green
stain over the city...*



Subaru did
you hear
about it?



Subaru!



*Along with the
strange happen-
ings of the
summer, the news-
paper had a short
article covering
the death of a
middle school
student*





Katsuno, that boy in the grade below jumped off a cliff and killed himself



The boy berries were a surprise too

Anyway, it's a shock!

Smiling, but after we'd thought that someone from our school would commit suicide. That Katsuno boy I heard that his family was pretty normal, seemed like there wasn't any reason why he'd had to die

When they found the body it was already rotting away so they couldn't even tell who it was.

It was in yesterday's paper he probably couldn't take the heat.



It's so sick, isn't it?

And y'know, there's some weirdo saying that Katsuno had a crush on you, Katsuno... kinda creepy

...you know?

I'm not kidding! The teachers are already talking about helping out with the school.



...not really



*I wish there
was nothing*

*I think it's
beautiful*

that bound my feet



*One
shouldn't
die in such
a dirty
way.*

*Self
straps are
decorative.*

*There was a string
that bound Kat-
ana and I together.*

*There was no
string that
bound my
feet.*



*That's the reason
why I didn't fly*